

Tale Feathers

April 2003

Volume 70
Number 4

The Future of Conservation in Missouri

John Hoskins, MDC Director, to Speak at Annual Meeting on April 13

Hurry, before it's too late!! Register now for St. Louis Audubon Society's Annual Meeting at the Webster Groves Recreation Complex on Sunday, April 13, 2003. Our speaker this year will be John D. Hoskins, seventh director of the Missouri Department of Conservation. Sworn in on July 1, 2002, Director Hoskins is continuing a career that began with the Department in 1977. He has served as a conservation agent, regional protection supervisor, chief of general services and most recently as protection division administrator.

2:00 p.m.-Hendri's will serve a lunch buffet, including drinks and dessert.

3:00 p.m.-we will have a short business meeting, including presentation of awards and the election of the Board.

3:30 p.m.-Director Hoskins will present, "Missouri Conservation Vision and Commitment for the New Century," in which he will discuss the future challenges of conservation in Missouri, including a growing suburban population that is becoming isolated from conservation concerns and a Department that is being challenged by a variety of non-conservation tasks while facing intense budget pressures.

The afternoon is open to all, but only current SLAS members will be allowed to vote in the Board election. The cost is just \$15 per person-a slight increase over last year due to the facility rental fee. Reservations are required-please use the form on page 3.

You can easily reach the Recreation Complex at 33 E. Glendale from I-44. Take the Elm Street exit south and make the first left at the Complex sign.

**ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION
FORM ON PAGE 3**

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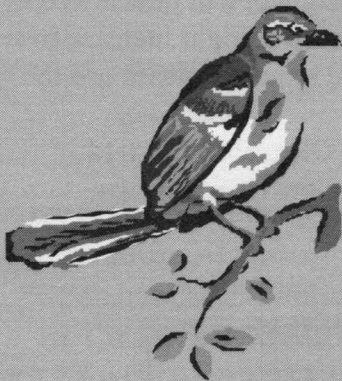
Landscaping with
Native Plants

St. Louis Audubon Society

Volunteers

PLEASE JOIN US

Please join us for the next newsletter mailing party on April 25, 2003. Call Anne Bolte at (314)832-0938 or Bill Salsgiver at (636)225-1490 for details



Let's Go Chase Some Rare Birds

This year St. Louis Audubon Society is offering a special birding trip in June (6th - 8th) to look for some of the least usual birds in the state. We will be visiting sites known to have Bachman's Sparrows, Swainson's Warblers, Black Vultures, and Road Runners, to name a few. This may be your chance to fill out your list of Missouri life birds as we search for the rarities. Look for details in the May *Tale Feathers* newsletter, and begin planning now to join us in June.

St Louis County Library Events

Oak Bend Branch
842 South Holmes
St Louis Mo 63122

Program sites are accessible. Upon two weeks notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Events are free and open to the public

Monday, April 4, 10 a.m.

Feng Shui in the Garden

Feng Shui is the ancient Chinese art of achieving harmony and balance in one's environment. Jacqueline Mitchell, Master Gardener, will explain how to apply these artistic principles to garden design, in either existing gardens, or in the design of a new garden. Recommended for adults

Wednesday, April 23, 7 p.m.

Sears Homes in St Louis

Author Rosemary Thornton has conducted surveys of Sears Catalog homes for several communities and has written and lectured about them for three years. Using her field notes, and expertise, she will share information about these old catalog homes using examples from our region. The program is based on her book, *The Houses that Sears Built*, which will be available for purchase after the program. Co-Sponsored by Friends of the St. Louis County Library. Recommended for adults.

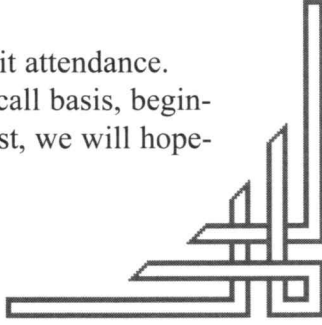
Donna M. Spaulding
314-822-0051
dspaulding@slcl.org



Tour the St. Louis Zoo Bird House

Mike Macek, Bird Curator, to Lead Behind-the-Scenes Tour

Join us on Saturday, April 26 at 1:30 p.m. and experience the St. Louis Zoo's bird facilities up close, personal, and behind the scenes. This rare opportunity will be led by Mike Macek, the Zoo's Curator of Birds. Mike will provide a brief summary of the zoo's activities, including current research and its role in conservation of endangered species. He and other Zoo personnel will then guide the group behind the exhibits to see just how this world-class facility tackles such daunting tasks.



To insure the experience is rewarding for all, we must limit attendance. Reservations will be taken by Mitch Leachman on a first-call basis, beginning **April 1st**, at 314-739-5112. If we have strong interest, we will hopefully be able to offer this tour again next year.

Annual Audubon Meeting Registration Form

Please mail this form or a copy with payment by check to:
Mitch Leachman, 11340 Gardenview Ln, #1, St. Ann, MO 63074

Make check payable to St. Louis Audubon Society.

Name(s)

\$15.00 x _____ = _____
Fee No. Total Enclosed

Hey, It's Spring, Get Out There and BIRD!!!

Jim Malone

All right, I can see why you spent the cold winter months in doors. The winds at Riverlands were very biting at times, but the birds were really worth the trip! But now you have no excuse. The weather is getting nice and warm, the birds are flooding back into St. Louis, and we have some wonderful trips planned for April and May. Now that we are joining forces with WGNSS, we offer you even more great outings each month. Remember, you can use these April outings to begin practicing those warbler identification skills you will need as May comes around.

April 6, (Sunday) Busch C. A., 4:00 PM As of this writing, Woodcocks are peenting all over Busch CA! We will be visiting some of the best Timberdoodle (a.k.a. American Woodcock) areas in Busch to hear the calling and see their amazing flight patterns. This year we are re-kindling an old WGNSS tradition, a picnic before the birdwalk! Bring your picnic goodies, and we will have hot coals on hand if you want to grill - no reservations necessary. Meet in the pavillion near the Fallen Oak nature trail. Contact Jim Malone at (636) 536-1119 for additional information.

April 13, (Saturday) Carlyle Lake, 8:00 AM This is a great location any time of the year! Join the man who knows Carlyle birds better than anyone, Dan Kassebaum, as he leads you all over the Carlyle area for the best of the season. This trip will be filled with great looks at numerous shorebird species, waterfowl, passerines, and raptors. To get there, take the Poplar street bridge East, and stay on I-64 when the interstates split. Follow I-64 to highway 50 (take the exit toward Carlyle). Follow highway 50 to its junction with highway 127 just outside Carlyle, Illinois. Meet Dan at the McDonald's on your left. This should be a great trip!

April 20, (Sunday) Busch C.A., 7:00 AM The birding locations at Busch C.A. and nearby Weldon Springs C.A offer a tremendous variety of habitats in close proximity. Join Joe Eades, searching the lakes, mudflats, deep woods, and flood plains of the area for birds like Blue Grosbeak, Harris Sparrows, Flycatchers, Shorebirds, Scoters, and lots of other great birds. This is an area that Joe knows really well, and you will generate an impressive list of birds on this trip. To get to Busch C.A. take route 94 South from US 40 in St. Charles county to highway D. Turn right at D and go about 1.5 miles to the entrance to Busch C.A. Meet Joe at the Headquarters building on the right.

April 26 (Saturday) Shaw Nature Reserve/Robertsville State Park, 7:30 AM It has been a year or so since we have done this trip, but it is always interesting. This year we are adding Robertsville Prairie to the outing to cover some different territory. We always have a very good variety of warblers, raptors, prairie birds, and a few surprises on this trip. This will be an all day outing, so bring a lunch and something to drink. To get there, take I-44 West to Gray Summit, MO and exit onto highway 100. Cross left over the interstate, then go 1 block to the entrance to the Nature Reserve. There will be a \$3 entrance fee for those not members of the Missouri Botanical Society.

April 27 (Sunday) Lost Valley (Weldon Springs C.A.), 8:00 AM Join Nancy and Dale Delaney at Lost Valley for an exploration of this varied and birdy area. Lost Valley is a great place to spend time in the week or two before the peak of passerine migration on May 8th. The birds often return here a bit earlier than they do in much of the St. Louis area. On this trip, you will be led by Nancy and Dale Delaney. The Delaneys have birding experience from around the world, and will no doubt find some very interesting specialties on this trip. To get there, take highway 94 South from highway 40. Travel about 6 miles down 94 to a parking lot at the bottom of the hill on the right. Meet at the trail head and prepare to see some great birds.

See the insert in this newsletter for additional May walks which are part of International Migratory Bird Week.



Conservation Report

Sue Gustafson, VP Conservation

Request for Volunteers

This month's conservation report is a **request for volunteers** for two upcoming events that will promote the awareness and need for migratory bird conservation.

If you're not participating in the North American Migration Count (described in the flyer insert for International Migratory Bird Week in this newsletter), come help us out at the St. Louis Zoo on Saturday, May 10th for Migratory Bird Discovery Day, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Help Audubon's Education Committee in assisting with demonstrations that feature bird identification, adaptations to habitat, need for stopover habitat, and bird activities for kids including making a backyard bird feeder. For more info or to volunteer to help out at this event, contact Dale Ponce at 636-394-6011.

We're once again looking for volunteers to survey for bird fatalities related to collisions with lighted buildings during the peak of spring migration (the first two weeks of May). We have surveyed downtown buildings for the last several years and have fortunately not had that major of a problem with fatalities, as compared to other large cities. Therefore, depending upon volunteer response, this year we may look at buildings in "downtown" Clayton or possibly at the bases of tall communication towers. This requires one or two mornings (6 a.m. to around 8 a.m.) during the two-week survey period. As in years past, our findings will be reported to the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and will assist us in discussing this issue with building owners. For more information or to volunteer to participate, contact me at 314-968-8128 or at smgustafson@juno.com.

Enjoy Life! Go Birding !!

A Spring Birding Festival at Powder Valley Nature Center

Tuesday, April 15 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Missouri Department of Conservation and St. Louis Audubon Society

Spring has arrived and more migrant songbirds are pouring in each day. The stunning beauty of these tiny migrants can be breathtaking and has made bird-watching one of the fastest growing outdoor activities in America today. St. Louis Audubon Society is again offering a program for children and adults to introduce them to birding (bird watching) as a hobby. Invite your friends, children, grandkids, etc. Join us for this special program which is the eighth joint effort of the St. Louis Audubon Society and the Powder Valley Nature Center.

We will share a superb video providing extreme closeup views and sounds of many beautiful birds. Numerous tips and suggestions are provided in the video defining what details to observe when starting to identify birds.

Also, the best nearby locations to find these migrant birds will be discussed. The best bird books for getting started will also be identified. Several handouts will be available, and upcoming bird walks escorted by experienced Audubon leaders will be announced. No reservations are required.



LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

A One-Day Conference for Professionals

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

J.C. Penney Conference Center

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Cole Burrell, noted speaker and author of *Perennial Combinations*, joins a stellar group of experts in a one-day conference. Sessions include:

- Landscaping urban spaces with native plants
- Urban riparian buffers
- Projects of Promise
- Rain gardens
- State and federal incentives
- LEED certification - why you need it.

Landscape architects, civil engineers, nursery professionals, general contractors, urban planners - any landscape or botany professional - will benefit from this conference. Workshop sessions will be followed by a booksigning and a public evening session.

Mark Tuesday, April 1, 2003, on your calendar now!

The \$85 fee includes lunch, parking, and a public evening session. Call 314.516.5655 for more information, or to register.



Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2002 - 2003

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Dave Pierce	314-434-1651
John Solodar	314-862-5294

Attention!

The deadline for the May issue is
April 10. Send inquiries to Anne by
E-mail ambolte@swbell.net

phone 314.832.0938

post 6939 Sharp

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of Missouri

This form makes you a member of **both** the National and St. Louis Audubon.

Audubon is a membership organization dedicated to protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Our members are the source of our volunteer strength and the foundation of our financial support. By becoming a member, you will receive National Audubon Society's magazine as well as the St. Louis Audubon Society newsletter, *Tale Feathers*.

St. Louis Audubon Society Membership Form

Membership category desired:

- ☐ Introductory / \$20
☐ Special two-year Introductory / \$30
☐ Sr. Citizen / Student / \$15
☐ Local Chapter / \$15 Make checks payable
to SLAS and send to above address

Send a check made out to:
National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
St. Louis, Mo. 63122

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

N01 7XCH

Please support your local chapter. Use this form to join or renew.

Celebrate the return of more than 250 species of neotropical migrant birds that rely on habitats in the Midwest to carry on life.

**INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATORY
BIRD WEEK**

MAY 4 - 11, 2003

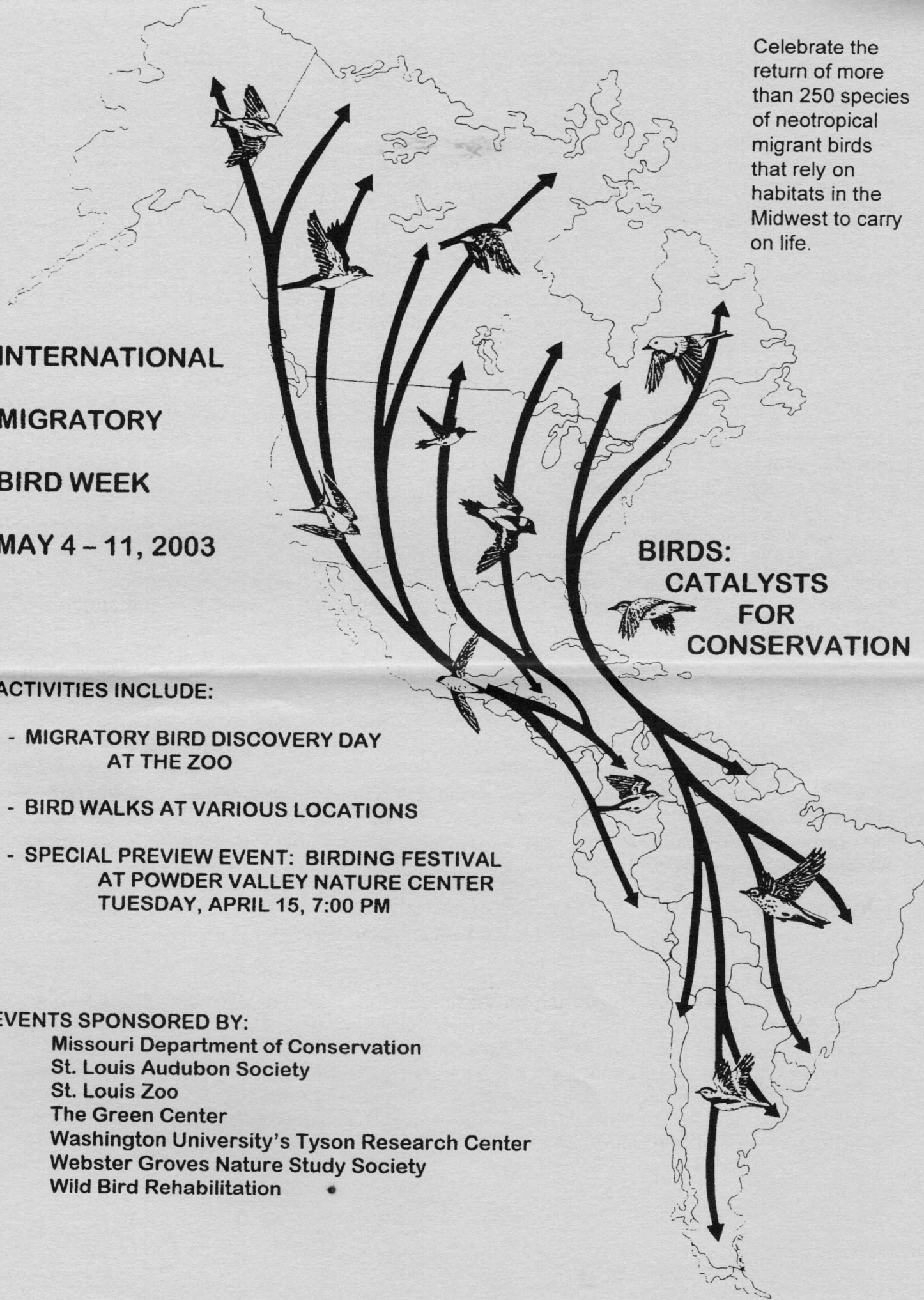
**BIRDS:
CATALYSTS
FOR
CONSERVATION**

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- MIGRATORY BIRD DISCOVERY DAY
AT THE ZOO
- BIRD WALKS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- SPECIAL PREVIEW EVENT: BIRDING FESTIVAL
AT POWDER VALLEY NATURE CENTER
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 7:00 PM

EVENTS SPONSORED BY:

Missouri Department of Conservation
St. Louis Audubon Society
St. Louis Zoo
The Green Center
Washington University's Tyson Research Center
Webster Groves Nature Study Society
Wild Bird Rehabilitation •



International Migratory Bird Week Celebration

May 4 – 11, 2003

The following is a listing of the special events that are happening around the St. Louis area in conjunction with International Migratory Bird Week. Some of the programs require reservations. All programs are free of charge. Bring binoculars to bird walks, wear comfortable walking shoes, and dress for spring weather conditions. Walks are geared at all experience levels, and beginning birders are especially encouraged to attend.

Special Preview Event:

A Spring Birding Festival at Powder Valley Nature Center

Tuesday, April 15 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by

Missouri Department of Conservation and St. Louis Audubon Society

Spring has arrived and more migrant songbirds are pouring in each day. The stunning beauty of these tiny migrants can be breathtaking and has made birdwatching one of the fastest growing outdoor activities in America today. Join us for this special program which is the eighth joint effort of the St. Louis Audubon Society and the Powder Valley Nature Center.

We will share a superb video providing extreme closeup views and sounds of many beautiful birds. Numerous tips and suggestions are provided in the video defining what details to observe when starting to identify birds. Also, the best nearby locations to find these migrant birds will be discussed. Several handouts will be available, and upcoming bird walks will be announced. No reservations are required.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

BIRDING IN TOWER GROVE PARK

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON

7:30 A.M.

WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

Tower Grove Park is historically known as one of the best migrant "traps" in the urban area and offers views of numerous species of warblers. Meet at the Gaddy Bird Garden at the northwest corner of the park. Call Jim Malone at 636-536-1119 for more information. All ages and beginners welcome.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

BIRD WALK AT THE GREEN CENTER

8:30 A.M.

THE GREEN CENTER

The bird walk will explore The Green Center's learning/demonstration gardens, a half-acre prairie, a restored wetland, and the 26-acre Ruth Park Woods. Meet in front of The Green Center's 1932-era home in University City's Kaufman Park at 8025 Blackberry Avenue 63130. Park in front of Kaufman Park's tennis courts. To register or for more information contact The Green Center by mail at the above address, by e-mail at info@thegreencenter.org, or call Dianne Benjamin, Program Director, 314-725-8314. Ages 10 and older recommended.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

BIRD WALK AT TYSON RESEARCH CENTER

8:30 A.M.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY'S TYSON RESEARCH CENTER

Come explore the meadows and oak-hickory woodlands of this hilly karst-dominated landscape in southwest St. Louis County. A series of springs and constructed ponds provide aquatic habitats. Meet at the gatehouse entrance located at the northwest corner of the Beaumont-Antire exit off of I-44. For more information, contact Dave Larson, Field Station Manager, at 314-935-8433.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

MIGRATORY BIRD DISCOVERY DAY

ST. LOUIS ZOO

ZOO'S LIVING WORLD CENTER

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON

11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

WILD BIRD REHABILITATION

Do you want to know more about wild birds, birding, and bird awareness? Activities and demonstrations feature bird identification, birds' adaptation to their habitats, best locations to see birds, feeding and housing for wild birds, proper care for injured and orphaned wild birds, a chance to meet live birds from the zoo, and bird activities for kids. No reservations required; stop by anytime. For more details, call Vicki Flier at 314-968-9166.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT

VARIOUS STARTING TIMES

Every year on the 2nd Saturday of May, Partners in Flight sponsors the North American Migration Count. The goal is to monitor neotropical migrant birds over the long term to look for trends in population, range, and migratory patterns. The Count is very similar to the Christmas Bird Count. Our goal is to cover as many locations in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County as possible. The more volunteers we get, the more places we can count. For more information or to take part in one of the counts, contact St. Louis City Compiler, Yvonne Homeyer – 314-963-7750, St. Louis County Compiler, Zoe Geist – 636-467-5030, or St. Charles County Compiler, Paul Bauer – 314-921-3972.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

BIRDING AT KENNEDY WOODS

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON

7:30 A.M.

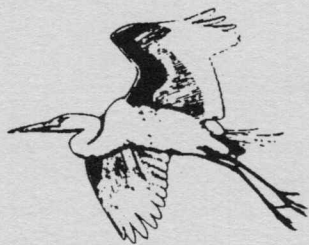
WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

Kennedy Woods in Forest Park is one of the best places in the area to observe warblers and other spring migrants. Trails provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation make this area more accessible to groups. Help provided for beginners. Contact Jim Malone at 636-636-1119 for more information. All ages welcome.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS



POWDER VALLEY NATURE CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
11715 Cragwold Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122
For information on programs, call 314-301-1500



ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 220227
St. Louis, MO 63122
For information on Bird Week events, call
Sue Gustafson at 314-968-8128
For information on bird walks, call
Jim Malone at 636-536-1119
Visit www.stlouisaudubon.org



ST. LOUIS ZOO
Forest Park, St. Louis, MO
For information about programs, call 314-768-5466



THE GREEN CENTER
8025 Blackberry Ave.
University City, MO 63130
For information on programs, call Dianne Benjamin,
Program Director, at 314-725-8314
Visit www.thegreencenter.org



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